Library

HLTH
SEC 55
40

RIPPONDEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

(J. LYONS, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.)

FOR 1954.

RIPPONDEN
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

(J. LYONS, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.)

FOR 1954.

ELLAND:

M. Pilling & Sons, Ltd., Printers, The Cross.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Ripponden U.D.C.

Medical Officer of Health :

J. LYONS, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health :

N. E. GORDON, M.B., B.C.L., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor :

J. SHARPLES, C.S.I., A.I.S.E., F.A.B.S.S.

West Riding County Council :

Preventive Medical Services : Health Division 19.

Staff with duties in the Ripponden District.

Divisional Medical Officer : as above (M.O.H.).

Senior Assistant County M.O. and School M.O. :
*N. E. GORDON, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Assistant County Medical Officer, School M.O. and Medical Officer for Ripponden Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic :
*ALICE SEELIG, M.D.

School Dental Officer :
Vacant.

Health Visitor :
*M. O. FORRESTER, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Tuberculosis Health Visitor :
*B. G. NICHOLL, S.R.N.

Mental Health Social Worker :
*E. C. WROE, S.R.N., R.M.N., S.C.M., H.V.

Mental Health Home Teacher (Qualified) :
M. H. GRAHAM, B.A.

Midwife :
*A. G. REID, S.R.N., S.C.M. (Queen's Nurse).

Home Nurse :
K. BOTTOMLEY, S.R.N.

Halifax Area Hospitals Management Committee :

Consultant Staff :

Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeon :
W. O. LODGE, M.D., F.I.C.S., F.R.C.S. (Edin.)

Chest Physician :
BERTRAM MANN, B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H.

Orthopaedic Surgeon :
G. HYMAN, M.B., F.R.C.S.

Ophthalmic Surgeon :

*Also have duties in other parts of this division.

Abraham Ormerod Medical Centre,
Todmorden.
October, 1955.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council,

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the eighth Annual Report since the inception of the scheme of Divisional Health Administration.

Under the Divisional Health scheme your Medical Officer of Health is also Divisional Medical Officer for the West Riding County Council's local health services and has similar functions in the Borough of Todmorden, the Urban Districts of Sowerby Bridge and Hebden Royd and the Rural District of Hepton. The scheme has led to a closer integration of local authority health services.

The vital statistics for the year do not maintain the generally satisfactory trend shown in 1953. The birth rate fell from 14.2 per 1,000 population in 1953 to 11.7 per 1,000 in 1954. At the same time there was a marked increase in the death rate from 11.7 to 15.8 per 1,000. Deaths from cancer reached the exceptionally high figure of 20, representing a cancer death rate of 3.85 per 1,000. This rate is nearly twice that for England and Wales and is exceeded by only one of the eighty eight other Sanitary Districts in the West Riding. The vital statistics of any small population are, of course, subject to considerable annual fluctuation, but it may be of significance that the cancer death rate taken over the four years 1951 to 1954 inclusive is still very high, viz. 2.85 which is 40% above the national figure. The relatively large proportion of aged persons in this community can only **partly** explain such a disparity and one can only hope that this trend does not persist over the next few years.

There is an ever growing and urgent need for more research into the epidemiology of cancer, so as to determine the relationship which may exist between certain forms of cancer and various environmental factors including atmospheric pollution (whether from coal, diesel oil or other sources) and also certain personal habits, e.g. smoking, diet, excessive self-medication, special occupational risks, etc. Research of this nature can be carried out by Public Health Departments at remarkably little cost and would supplement and reinforce the work already being done by pathologists and biochemists, but its success would depend on the closest possible collaboration with hospitals and general practitioners. Unfortunately the formidable administrative barriers now existing between Public Health Departments and

other branches of the Health Service render very difficult the organisation of this wider field of preventive medicine. The Minister of Health could give a lead by providing the conditions for a closer professional relationship between Medical Officers of Health and Hospital Consultants. In so doing he could, in the long run, reap immeasurable benefits for both the community and its economy. Prevention is not only better than cure, it is also cheaper.

There was no serious incidence of infectious disease in this District during the year under review. The 13 cases of dysentery notified were of a mild type prevalent in most parts of the country. Of the 10 cases of whooping cough notified none had been immunised under the County Council scheme.

The housing situation in Ripponden has steadily though very slowly improved during the past year or two as a result of new building. Many of the older houses are, however, showing serious signs of deterioration and it is estimated that approximately 100 dwellings will have to be formally condemned as unfit for habitation. The speed at which this programme of slum clearance can be followed must in the long run depend on the degree to which the resources of the District Council, of prospective tenants and of the public in general can match the extraordinarily high costs of post war building.

In conclusion I wish to thank the members of the Council for their kindness, patience and co-operation, and to thank Mr. Sharples, Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor, for his kindness and efforts to give me the sanitary circumstances of the area, and indeed to all your officials with whom I made contacts personal and official.

I have the honour to be Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. LYONS, M.B., Ch. B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION 1.

Vital Statistics — 1954.

STATISTICS.

Area—13,289 acres.

Population—Registrar General's estimate of Resident Population, mid. 1954—5,200.

Census 1951—5,213.

Number of dwelling-houses—1,932.

Rateable Value—£34,613 (year 1954-5).

Product of a penny rate—£136 16s. 0d.

Summary of Vital Statistics.

	Total	M	F	
Live Births— Legitimate Illegitimate	 55 6	 25 3	 30 3	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population **11.7.**
Still Births— Legitimate Illegitimate	 2 —	 2 —	 — —	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births **31.7.**
All Deaths	82	40	42	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population **15.8.**
Deaths of Infants under 1 year— Legitimate Illegitimate	 2 1	 — —	 2 1	Infant Mortality Rate (Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births) **49.2.**

Causes of Death in Ripponden U.D.

	Cause of Death.	1954. M.	1954. F.
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	3	—
2	Tuberculosis, other	—	—
3	Syphilitic disease	—	—
4	Diphtheria	—	—
5	Whooping Cough	—	—
6	Meningococcal infections	—	—
7	Acute poliomyelitis	—	—
8	Measles	—	—
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	—	2
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	3	—
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	2
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	2
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	7	4
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—
16	Diabetes	—	—
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	3	8
18	Coronary disease, angina	11	5
19	Hypertension with heart disease	1	—
20	Other heart disease	5	7
21	Other circulatory disease	1	1
22	Influenza	—	—
23	Pneumonia	—	1
24	Bronchitis	1	2
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	—	—
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	—
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	1
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	—	1
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—
31	Congenital malformation	—	—
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	6
33	Motor vehicle accidents	—	—
34	All other accidents	2	—
35	Suicide	—	—
36	Homicide and operations of war	—	—
	Total, all causes ...	40	42

Principal Vital Statistics for the year 1954 :

Based on Registrar General's Figures.

	Ripponden U.D.	Sowerby Brge U.D.	Hebden Royd U.D.	Todmorden M.B.	Hepton R.D.	Aggregate W. Riding U.D.	W. Riding Admin. County	England and Wales (Provisional Figures)
BIRTH RATE:— (per 1,000 estimated population)	11.7	14.2	12.1	12.3	13.3	14.7	15.1	15.2
DEATH RATES:— (All per 1,000 estimated home population)								
All Causes	15.8	13.7	13.7	13.1	14.3	12.7	11.9	11.3
Infective and parasitic diseases*	—	0.11	0.10	—	—	0.07	0.08	* *
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	0.58	0.16	—	0.16	0.25	0.18	0.16	0.16
Other forms of tuberculosis	—	—	0.10	—	—	0.01	0.02	0.02
Cancer	3.85	2.59	2.60	2.47	2.71	2.12	2.01	2.04
Vascular lesions of nervous system	2.12	2.00	1.80	1.72	2.96	2.03	1.84	* *
Heart and circulatory diseases‡	5.96	5.68	5.09	4.46	4.43	4.88	4.54	* *
Respiratory Diseases:—† (excluding tuberculosis of respiratory system)	0.77	1.03	1.20	1.34	1.97	1.27	1.22	* *
INFANT MORTALITY:— (Deaths under one year per 1,000 live births)	49.2	19.0	33.1	3.51	55.6	28.3	28.0	25.5
MATERNAL MORTALITY:— (Deaths of mothers in childbirth per 1,000 live and still-births)	—	—	—	—	—	0.80	0.89	0.69

* Combined death rate from syphilitic disease, diphtheria, whooping cough, meningococcal infections, acute poliomyelitis. measles and other infective and parasitic diseases, (items 3 to 9 incl. on p. 6).

‡ Combined death rate from heart disease and other diseases of the circulatory system, (items 18 to 21 incl. on p. 6).

† Combined death rate from influenza, pneumonia, bronchitis and other respiratory diseases, excluding tuberculosis of the respiratory system, (items 22 to 25 incl. on p. 6).

SECTION II.

General Provision of Health Services.

A. Hospitals.

There is no hospital in Ripponden. Patients requiring hospital treatment are referred as a rule to hospitals under the administration of the Halifax Area Hospitals Management Committee (National Health Service). Included in this group are the Halifax General Hospital, Royal Halifax Infirmary, St. John's Hospital (for aged and chronic sick), Shelf Sanatorium, Northowram Hall Hospital (for Infectious Diseases), Todmorden Fielden Hospital (for long stay medical cases in children), and Todmorden Stansfield View Hospital (for mental defectives).

Maternity beds are available both at Halifax General Hospital and Royal Infirmary. Priority in booking is given to abnormal cases, mothers expecting their first child, and mothers with unsatisfactory home conditions.

Special hospitals (e.g. Mental Hospitals, special Orthopaedic Hospitals, Tuberculosis Sanatoria, etc.) outside the Halifax area are available when required ; they are situated in various parts of the so-called "Leeds Hospital Region" which in fact extends into all three Ridings.

B. Ambulance Facilities.

The County Ambulance Service (Divisional Depot at Brighouse—telephone Brighouse 840) covers this district. Arrangements also exist with the Halifax County Borough Health Department for the use of their ambulances for the transfer of patients to and from the hospitals in Halifax.

C. Laboratory Facilities.

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service (directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health) at laboratories in Wakefield and Bradford.

D. Issue of Anti-toxin, etc.

Supplies of diphtheria and tetanus anti-toxin are available at the Northowram Hall Hospital and at the Halifax General Hospital for issue to medical practitioners requiring it.

By arrangement with the Regional Hospital Board supplies of tetanus anti-toxin are also kept at the Divisional Health Office, The Medical Centre, Todmorden, for the use of local medical practitioners in the Division. A supply of reagents for diphtheria and whooping cough immunisation is also available free of charge to private practitioners who have undertaken to participate in the West Riding County Council's schemes of immunisation.

SECTION III.

W.R.C.C. PREVENTIVE HEALTH SERVICES.

A. Clinics and Treatment Centres.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic is held at the Zion Congregational Sunday School, Ripponden, every Tuesday afternoon, and is attended by Dr. A. Seelig and the Health Visitor. An Ante-Natal Clinic similarly staffed is held in the early afternoon of the first Tuesday in every month. A School Clinic staffed by the Health Visitor is held each Tuesday morning.

B. Care of Mothers and Young Children.

Ripponden Ante Natal Clinic.

Number of expectant mothers attending during the year	4
Total number of attendances	25

Ripponden Child Welfare Centre.

Number of consultations by Doctor during the year ...	345
Total number of attendances	930

Home Visiting of Infants.

Total number of live births to Ripponden mothers ...	61
Number of first visits to children under 1 year	73
Total number of visits to children under 1 year ...	346
Total number of visits to children aged 1—5 years ...	677

Provision of Welfare Foods, etc.

A variety of brands of dried milk and other infant foods are sold at the Child Welfare Centre for the convenience of mothers.

National Dried Milk, cod liver oil, orange juice, etc. are also distributed at the Centre under revised arrangements instituted in July, 1954 when the County Council became responsible for this service.

Day Nursery Accommodation.

The nearest Day Nursery to which Ripponden children may be admitted is at Sowerby Bridge, and children may be admitted under certain conditions.

Care of Premature Infants.

Special equipment and nursing staff is available for use in the home in cases requiring them.

Provision of Maternity Outfits.

These are provided free to mothers preparing for confinement in their own homes.

C. Professional Nursing in the Home.

The West Riding County Council is responsible for both home nursing and midwifery in this area. There is one full-time Home Nurse and one full-time Midwife working in Ripponden and neighbouring parts of the Sowerby Bridge U.D.

Midwifery Service.

Number of home confinements	24
Number of hospital confinements	39

Analgesia.

The Ripponden Midwife is trained in the administration of gas and air analgesia and is provided with the necessary equipment. Analgesia is available to all mothers desiring it subject to satisfactory medical examination by a doctor. It is hoped that more mothers will make use of this valuable service.

D. Health Visitor.

The duties of the Health Visitor are combined with those of School Nurse. In pursuance of the National Health Service Act the scope for this service includes home visiting for the purpose of giving advice as to the care of children, of persons (including adults) suffering from illness, and of expectant and nursing mothers. The Health Visitor also gives advice in the home as to measures necessary to prevent the spread of infection.

E. Home Helps.

In accordance with the National Health Service Act, the County Council provide domestic help for households "where such help is required owing to the presence of any person who is ill, lying-in, an expectant mother, mentally defective, aged, or a child not over compulsory school age."

Fourteen cases were attended in Ripponden during 1954 and were divided into the following categories: Maternity, aged persons and illness. The total number of hours worked by home helps was 1,186, as compared with 1,016 in 1953.

F. Care and after care.

Special provisions are in operation for the care and after care of patients suffering from tuberculosis, mental illness or defect venereal disease, and other illnesses.

G. School Health Service.

Number of schools in district	4
Number of children attending at end of 1954	411
Number of children examined at these schools during 1954	247

This figure being made up as follows :—

Routine examinations	219
Re-examinations	28
Number of above children referred for treatment	16

H. Immunisation and Vaccination.

In accordance with the National Health Service Act, immunisation against diphtheria and vaccination against smallpox and whooping cough may be done either at the clinic or by the family doctor.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Number of Children in Ripponden who completed a full course of Diphtheria immunisation, 1954.

Began and completed injections 1954 :—

0-1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
12	30	4	4	1	3	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—

Total 58

Immunised in previous years, re-treated 1954 :—

0-1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
—	—	—	—	—	10	12	17	7	6	20	8	5	3	—

Total 88.

Immunisation in relation to child population.

Number of Children in Ripponden who had completed a full course of Diphtheria Immunisation at any time to 31.12.54.

Age at 31/12/54	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5/9	10/14	Total under 15
No. immun.	12	48	48	32	39	377	318	874

Estimated mid-year population under 15 years—1,178.

Whooping Cough Immunisation.

Number of Children in Ripponden who completed a full course of Whooping Cough immunisation, 1954.

Age at final Injection	Under 6 Mths.	6 Mths. to 1 yr.	1-2 yrs.	2-3 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	Total
No. Immunised —	11	14	6	1	1	33

Immunisation in relation to child population.

Number of children in Ripponden who had completed a course of Whooping Cough immunisation at any time before 31.12.54.

Age at 31-12-54. i.e. born in year	Under 1 1954	1 1953	2 1952	3 1951	4 1950	5 1949	6 1948	Total
No. Immunised	2	37	16	7	—	1	—	63

During the year there were 10 notified cases of whooping cough. None of the children concerned had completed the full course of immunisation.

Vaccination against smallpox.

During the year records were received of the vaccination against smallpox of 15 persons living in the Ripponden area. Of this number 7 were infants under the age of one year.

SECTION IV.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Summary of Notifications received in the year 1954.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.
Scarlet Fever	—
Whooping cough	10
Acute poliomyelitis	—
Measles	—
Diphtheria	—
Acute pneumonia	—
Dysentery	13
Smallpox	—
Acute encephalitis	—
Enteric or Typhoid fever	—
Paratyphoid fevers	1
Erysipelas	—
Meningococcal infection	—
Food Poisoning	1
Puerperal pyrexia	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—
Pulmonary tuberculosis	5
Other forms of Tuberculosis	—
	30

Tuberculosis.

The number of cases notified during 1954 are given in detail in the following table :—

Age Period	New Cases. Respiratory M.	Respiratory F.	Non-Respiratory M.	Non-Respiratory F.
Under 5 ...	1	—	—	—
5—14 ...	—	1	—	—
15—24 ...	—	—	—	—
25—44 ...	—	—	—	—
45—64 ...	2	1	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	3	2	—	—

There were 3 deaths from tuberculosis during 1954.

SECTION V.

Sanitary Circumstances.

Number of Houses in district 1932

Water Supply.

Source of supply—Springs. Distributed by Ripponden U.D.C.

No. of dwellinghouses on public supply (direct to houses) 1407

No. of dwellinghouses not on public supply 525

The main supply is from the Council's small reservoir which is fed from an underground spring.

Examination of supplies.

Number of examinations made during year :—

(a) Chemical—4. Results—Satisfactory.

(b) Bacteriological—Nil.

No supplies have been restricted or closed during the year.

Drainage and Sewage.

Sewer extensions during 1954—None.

Details of any portion of district still requiring :—

(a) Sewering—Wall Nook and Krumlin areas.

(b) Improvement of defective sewers—Nil.

Number of houses not connected to sewers 495

(No sewer available—isolated parts of district).

Nuisance Inspections.

There was one nuisance found in 1954 which required abatement. Informal notice was served and complied with.

Closet Accommodation.

No. of privies with open middens	79
No. of privies with covered middens	93
No. of pail or tub closets	43
Waste water closets	24
No. of pedestal water closets	1583
Total number of closets in District	1822
Percentage of closets on water carriage system ...	86.88
No. of privies reconstructed in 1954 as W.C.'s ...	1
No. of closets, other than Privies reconstructed during 1954 as W.C.'s	4
No. of **additional** closets provided for old property in 1954 as :—	
(a) W.C.'s	12
(b) Other	—
No. of closets constructed in 1954 for new houses	
(a) W.C.'s	18
(b) Other	—

Grants are made by the Council for conversion of privies, waste water closets and pails to W.C. system.